



THOMAS H. KIELY
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POLICE DEPARTMENT
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POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN
ANNA HENRY, VICE CHAIRMAN
ALFRED LIGGINS, SECRETARY
PHILIP DIGENNARO, COMMISSIONER
WILLIAM MURPHY, COMMISSIONER
ALBERT ZAMARY, COMMISSIONER

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
7:00PM

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:10PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence.

Members Present

Jack Testani, Chairman
Anna Henry, Vice Chairman
Alfred Liggins, Secretary
Philip DiGennaro, Commissioner
William Murphy, Commissioner
Albert Zamary, Commissioner

Also Present

Chief Thomas H. Kiely
Deputy Chief Michael Harry
Town Attorney, Edward Walsh
William Murphy, Commissioner
Explorer Andrew Duva
Louis Mason, Mid-Town Auto

Chief Kiely introduced Andrew Duva, a Lieutenant in our Explorer program. Andrew is working on a school project, "Government Meetings" and will be sitting in on our Police Commission Meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Louis Mason, owner of Mid-Town Auto/Towing, 177 Pulaski St., Bridgeport, addressed the Commission with regard to any revisions that may have been made to the current Towing Policy since his last inquiry in October, 2010. Mr. Mason's facility does not meet the current requirement under GENERAL REQUIREMENTS – Item E of the Town of Trumbull Towing Policy currently in effect; this item states, in part, "such place of business shall be located within a five (5) mile radius of the Trumbull Town Hall

at the intersection of Church Hill Road and Main Street (Route 111)” Mid-Town Auto/Towing does not meet this criteria as it is not within the five mile radius. At the October 2010 Police Commission Meeting, it was decided to revisit this policy and possibly make revisions. Mr. Mason is present this evening to inquire about the status of any change in the radius that may have been decided.

On the Agenda for this evening’s meeting, the Towing Policy Review has been scheduled to be addressed under Old Business, Item #6.

Approval of March 08, 2011 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Following a review of the March 08, 2011 Police Commission Meeting Minutes, MOTION MADE – Commissioner HENRY, 2nd Commissioner MURPHY, to ACCEPT the minutes as presented. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence

Dan Nelson, Chief of Staff, Town of Trumbull is currently applying for a grant, which has some provisions from the United States Congress, called the Armstrong/Walker “Excessive Force” Amendment which has been ratified by Congress.

The current “Use of Force” Policy & Procedure for the Trumbull Police Department reads; “Members of the Trumbull Police Department are strictly prohibited from the use of excessive physical force against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations.”

The suggested amendment to this policy would read; “Members of the Trumbull Police Department are strictly prohibited from the use of excessive physical force against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations and will adhere to the provisions of the Armstrong/Walker “Excessive Force” Amendment (P.L. 101-144, Section 510) ratified by the Congress of the United States.” A vote from the Commission to approve this amendment will be forwarded to Dan Nelson for completion of this grant.

MOTION made –Commissioner LIGGINS, 2nd Commissioner MURPHY, to amend the Use of Force Policy & Procedure for the Trumbull Police Department to read as presented above. Discussion – Commissioner Henry brought to the attention of the Commission the discrepancy in the Section number in Mr. Nelson’s e-mail which reads “Section 510”; the Armstrong/Walker “Excessive Force” Certification document reads Section 519. Mr. Nelson confirmed the noted Section 510 was an error; Section 519 is correct. Correction to be noted.

Chairman Testani MOVED to have a MOTION to ACCEPT the original motion made by Commissioners LIGGINS & MURPHY to AMEND the Armstrong/Walker “Excess Force” Amendment with the following correction made in reference to P.L. 101-144 Section 510 to read P.L.101-144, **Section 519**. MOTION made, Commissioner

ZAMARY, 2nd Commissioner HENRY to amend the original motion to read P.L.101-144, **Section 519**. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Kiely's Report

- Patrol Division/Detective Bureau

A Monthly Statistics report was made available to the Commission. This report shows a comparison for Current Month vs Previous Month and Year to Date 2011 vs Year to Date 2010.

There was a slight decrease in burglar alarms down from 222 in February, 2011 to 183 in March, 2011; however, all of these alarms were false.

Deputy Chief Michael Harry and the Detective Bureau staff have drawn up an arrest warrant for the individual involved in the People's United bank robbery. The warrant is in court awaiting signature. Once signed, it will be served. The Detective Bureau is currently working on accomplices.

Medical calls continue to grow. Year to date 2010 shows 407 vs year to date 470. They are very time consuming and draws on the services.

Shoplifting in March doubled in number; i.e. Westfield and Hawley Lane Malls.

During a shoplifting incident at Kohl's, Hawley Lane, the suspect was pulling tags off of items with a pocketknife. While attempting to flee, the suspect pulled the knife out on the guard who was in pursuit. The suspect was apprehended and charged with robbery.

There were approximately 104 criminal arrests in the month of March, 2011.

- Miscellaneous

On Monday, April 11, 2011, Daniels Farm School played host to 50 Cub Scouts and 100 adults. Our canine Cyrus and handler Officer Carlson, put on a demonstration which was well received.. ERT members were also present.

The State of Connecticut reupped our First Responder status to 2012.

Within the next few weeks, two E-Ticket units will be placed in one of the Traffic Division vehicles and one in a patrol vehicle. License's will be swiped with this unit creating more efficiency in processing tickets. This practice is less time consuming, eliminates paperwork and eliminates mailing to Wethersfield. Records are electronically filed.

E-Ticket units are currently being utilized by the Connecticut State Police.. Information is entered on the MDT, printed and handed to the motorist. At the end of the day, the State uploads everything off of the MDT's. The units will be mounted on the vehicle's dashboard. Each unit is \$1,500.00 which is purchased through Asset Forfeiture money. (Safe Streets Task Force Unit).

By contract, the Trumbull Police Department is committed to have five patrol vehicles on the road. It is our intention to purchase additional units to be placed in each of the five patrol vehicles.

In the very near future, accident reports will be available on line on the Trumbull Website. This will eliminate the individual having to go to the Trumbull Police Department between 8AM and 4PM to acquire a copy. This will also accommodate insurance companies. Accidents under investigation, fatal, hit and runs, etc., will not be accessible until such time they are released by the officer assigned to the investigation.

Chief Kiely personally fully supports the efforts of Commissioner Ray Kelly, NYPD, in his efforts to have himself and his colleagues fight for what is referred to as "the D-Block". D-Block is a subset of the upper 700 Band. Commissioner Kelly's argument is complicated, however, Public Safety needs the entire D-Block and to control it over time. Funding is needed to "build a public safety grade broadband network that would provide mission-critical information to every first responder in the nation, no matter what the scope of the event."

William Chiarenzelli, Assistant Director of Emergency Management, obtained a Grant for a generator for the Trumbull Senior Center. The addition of this generator enables the Town of Trumbull to relocate/shelter residents, as the Center is now fully equipped to accommodate residents in the event of an emergency situation.

On April 29, 2011, the Trumbull Police Union Local 1745, Council #15, AFSCME, AFL-CIO will meet with the Town to begin contract negotiations and set guidelines and rules of bargaining.

On March 30, 2011, Chief Kiely and Deputy Chief, Michael Harry attended a workshop presented by Gatso, USA. Gatso provides sophisticated traffic enforcement systems. This workshop focused on an array of camera systems and citation management solutions. Our interest focused on the Red Light Camera Photo Technology.

This system records, red light, right turns on red and speeding violations. Mobile units are available which are more practical for our needs based on the numerous speeding violation complaints received by this Department. A TPD patrol vehicle is available to accommodate the use of this unit.. Violations are recorded by the unit and downloaded, making available the make of the vehicle and the license

plate registration number. Each unit has a cost of \$60,000, however, there is no fee to the Town or the TPD. Processing of the violations is handled by Gatso.

The State Legislature has limited this program to towns with a population of more than 60,000. The Town of Trumbull, with a population of 36,000, has a daytime population of over 100,000 people. Westfield Mall generates over 10 million people per year. When you take into consideration the volume of traffic generated on Routes 15, 08, 25, 127 and 108 a question arises as to our eligibility status.

Chief Kiely has made contact with State Representative, T.R. Rowe to discuss the possibility of implementing this program and addressing his concerns about the population limit. A follow-up meeting is scheduled with T.R. Rowe and will be discussed at the May 10, 2011 Police Commission Meeting.

Currently, twenty-five states are utilizing this system.

Detective Bureau

On March 31, 2011, Officer Mike Gonzalez was honored by the American Red Cross.

Of the 1,608 cases taken in by the TPD, 97 passed through the Detective Bureau; 58 were fingerprints, 39 were cases, 13 of which remain open.

The school bus driver cited for texting while driving was given probation. Detective Kevin Hammel is to be commended for his thorough and time-consuming investigation. Also, thanks to Part Time Patrol Assistant, Margaret Mastroni for her assistance in making available, to the Prosecutor, copies of pertinent documents related to this case..

Individuals committing a robbery, assaults, and enter a vehicle, results in the vehicle being confiscated. Recently, we were awarded from the Court a 2000 BMW that was involved in a robbery.

Detective Testi and Officer Mike Redgate, returning from an investigation in Westport, came upon a structure fire while traveling on I-95 in Bridgeport. Entering the burning building, they escorted five people to safety before the Bridgeport Fire Department arrived. Our respect and thanks to them for their selfless act, putting aside their own safety.

The Detective Bureau has additional evidence, and suspects, in the Harstan's Jewelry robbery. The FBI is working with the Trumbull Police Detective Bureau to bring this case to an end.

In 2009, there was a rash of car burglaries, four arrests were made. Additional burglaries were found to have taken place at a later date. Detective Hammel, in processing a vehicle from the second rash, and processing it so well, a fingerprint belonging to one of the suspects arrested in the first rash of burglaries, was found in the second rash. In 2009 the individual got youthful offender status; this time around he will be charged as an adult.

Applications for new entry level officers has closed. We received 150 applications, lower than expected. We believe it is attributed to the college requirement. Keeping this in mind, it makes the process more manageable for the testing procedures and background investigations.

Traffic

Officer Thompson and DOT Transportation Supervisory Engineer, Joseph Ouellette reviewed the Whitney Ave/Rails to Trails crossing on Tuesday, March 08, 2011. The recommendations are contained in a full report made available to the Commission.

Deputy Chief Harry read into the record the suggested/recommended improvements for the Whitney Ave/Rails to Trails crossing. Upon completion of his presentation, Chairman Testani asked for a motion to accept the suggestions as read and as noted in Case # 11-3320.

MOTION made, Commissioner LIGGINS, 2nd Commissioner HENRY, to ACCEPT the suggestions as read and noted in Case #11-2230. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Highway will be notified of the APPROVAL by the Police Commission of the suggested recommendations at the subject location. Signs will be of high visibility and ordered through the Town Highway Department.

Officer Thompson contacted officials at the Christian Heritage School with regard to hazardous parking conditions and improper turns on White Plains Rd..created by individuals picking a child up from school.

School officials notified parents and modified their student pick-up plan. This area will be monitored by Patrol and the Traffic Division.

During the month of March, 119 total cases were assigned to the Traffic Division. The cases included five motor vehicle complaints, 98 Citations, and 11 Car Seat installations.

Budget Review

Chief Kiely is confident that the Police Department Budget presented to the Town Council will be approved by the Trumbull Town Council on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. The budget presented took into consideration the present day economy.

The Juvenile Review Board Program Director, Sharon Stoyer, recently met with Chief Kiely to discuss the implementation of the Juvenile Review Board. At this time, Ms. Stoyer did not indicate there was a fee for this program. In a one-on-one meeting, Chief Kiely was informed the fee for a Director of our program is \$35,000.00 per year and a \$7,500.00 fee for setting up the program. No funds are available to support this program. At its' February 08, 2011, Commission Meeting, the Commission voted to implement this program, not anticipating a financial burden.

The Town of Trumbull's Counseling Center is available for meetings and is equipped with telephone services to accommodate the needs of the program. Chief Kiely will look into the possibility of a Grant. through RYASAP. A follow-up will take place at the May 10, 2011 Police Commission Meeting. Bridgeport and Stratford will be contacted with an inquiry as to how their program is funded.

Old Business – Towing Policy Review

The Commissioners received a copy of the proposed Towing Policy dated March 08, 2011. The main purpose of the revision, is to reestablish the radius portion of the policy is to open up the policy regarding radius qualifications. The current policy states that the applicant's place of business shall be located within a five mile radius of the Trumbull Town Hall at the intersection of Church Hill Road and Main St. (Route 111). See II General Requirements – Item E of the current Towing Policy.

The initial purpose of the five mile radius is to have a 20 minute response time to a call placed for towing service. We currently have one towing operation that handles the calls for such service. There are no response time complaints from those who have required towing service from the current establishment.

At this time, the Town of Trumbull would like to present an equitable and fair opportunity for businesses that wish to participate in the Towing for the Town of Trumbull. Due to legal specifications and the sensitive nature of the proposed revised policy, Chairman Testanti called for a Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:10PM.

MOTION made, Commissioner MURPHY, 2nd Commissioner DIGENNARO, to enter into Executive Session to discuss proposed revisions to the Town of Trumbull Towing Policy at 8:10PM. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Entering into Executive Session: Chairman, Jack Testani, Commissioners DiGennaro, Henry, Liggins, Murphy & Zamaray. Also entering, Chief Thomas H. Kiely, Deputy Chief Michael Harry and Town Attorney Edward Walsh.

MOTION made, Commissioner HENRY, 2nd Commissioner MURPHY to ADJOURN the Executive Session at 8:40PM. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

At 8:42PM, Chairman Testani re-opened the Public Comment section of the Agenda to give anyone wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

No Public Comment.

MOTION made, Commissioner DIGENNARO, 2nd Commissioner ZAMARY, to ADJOURN the Police Commission Meeting at 8:50PM. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted:

Jo-Ann C. Nanni
Clerk of the Commission